CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK
P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340 VOL. XXIII
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher E-Mail calpeek@aol.com No. 27
JULY 16, 2001

CAMPAIGN 2002: RIORDAN VS. JONES VS. SIMON.

Editor's note: While CA Gov. Gray Davis(D) continues to dig himself out of the political dog house – thanks to the State's energy crisis – two GOP gubernatorial hopefuls and possibly a third Republican hopeful continue to jockey for position. The big question: will former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan, current Sec. of State Bill Jones and L.A. businessman Bill Simon Jr. all be in the 2002 governor's race at crunch time??? Here's our update & analysis...

...The newest *L.A. Times* poll (June 23-26, 1,216 registered voters) shows incumbent Davis beating all three of his potential GOP rivals: Davis **49%** vs. Riordan **35%**; Davis **51%** vs. Jones **32%**; and Davis **52%** vs. Simon **27%**. And this is despite the fact that Davis' job approval rating is not all that great: **43%** approve vs. **46%** disapprove...

...The best guess at this point, according to GOP sources, is that at least one of the three potential gubernatorial candidates listed above won't be running for governor when the final decision is made. Most of our GOP sources think Jones is in the race to stay – despite the fact that either Riordan or Simon Jr. will greatly outspend him in the Mar. 5, 2002, GOP primary...

...What about Simon? Simon is still doing his *Calif. Speaks Tour*. In terms of fundraising, he's made a very impressive start: $2,797,000 raised + $586,000 of his own. COH is $2.4 million. Simon's campaign team is now completely in place and he's been trying to round up key endorsements. And this is where there are problems. Simon's trip to DC to meet with Calif.'s GOP congressional delegation was a disaster – according to our sources. He did not impress this group and that's why many of them signed on to encourage Riordan to run. Simon is very personable, but he's not up to speed on issues, according to sources. That will change in time, but for now it's hurting him...

...As for Riordan, he's due to start his own tour of different regions of Calif. at the end of July. Some sources have compared Riordan's upcoming trip to Hillary Clinton's "listening tour" of upstate NY. Outside of L.A., Riordan isn't that well known – and there is still tons of *regionalism* in Calif., which means Riordan will have to charm lots of people to overcome that natural distrust of L.A. And Riordan will have to dispel the talk that he's a **RINO** – *Republican In Name Only* – because of his past support for Demos. Riordan will make a decision in September. Opinion is *divided* on whether the former L.A. mayor will run. Right now Riordan is being pulled in several different directions. Former S.F. political consultant Clint Reilly (who ran Riordan's first campaign, but is a Demo) is pushing in one direction; Kevin Spillane from the Draft Riordan Campaign, is pushing in another direction; and there's a third group of former Pete Wilson operatives who are also pushing. And media reports state the Bush White House is also pushing Riordan...

...FYI: Simon met with Riordan about 14 days ago. There were only 4 people in the room at Riordan's home and it was mostly just chit chat. Remember it was Riordan who encouraged Simon to test the waters. Nothing about Riordan or Simon dropping out at that meeting, yet media leaks from that chat contend that Simon may drop out and run for either LG or AG. The Simon camp says that's nonsense. Wonder who leaked??? Stay tuned...

THE CONDIT FIASCO: THE POLITICS OF THIS MESS PUT CONGRESSMAN & DCCC IN TOUGH POSITION.

Editor's note: The story about a missing 24-year-old intern from Modesto who had an affair with U.S. Rep. Gary Condit(D-Ceres) is so similar to the situation involving former Pres. Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky that it's scary. But there's a key difference: Chandra Levy has disappeared off the face of the earth and is probably dead. That's why there is a news media feeding frenzy. Here's our update, analysis and commentary. We'll focus on the politics...

...Sources say image is everything to Gary Condit, the 53-year-old congressman from the 18th CD. He has portrayed himself as *Mr. Family Values*. Not anymore. Condit has represented this CD since he won a special election in 1989, replacing Tony Coelho(D). Even though the 18th CD has only a 46.12% Demo registration (vs. 39.24% GOP registration), because of Condit's popularity, the GOP has never

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310)659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. $90/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHTED BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SECRETARY OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

had a shot a winning here. Why? Because Condit works his CD very hard and he delivers *the pork*. He's the most conservative Demo in Calif.'s U.S. House delegation and is a leader among the so-called *Blue Dog Demos*. But that's all gone – from a self-inflicted wound of not being truthful…

…Until the story about Chandra Levy's disappearance hit the media, with linkage to Condit, House Demo Leader Dick Gephardt never gave the 18th CD a thought. He was focused on trying to pick off two GOP seats in No. Calif. (Pombo & Ose). Not anymore. Gephardt must now think about protecting the 18th CD. It's been 10 weeks since Levy vanished and at this point **Calpeek** has yet to find a political consultant who thinks Condit can win reelection next year. At this point it's difficult to assess whether Condit will resign his seat – but sources say there's pressure building from DC Demos for Condit to step down.. If thing get worse, there may be a move within the U.S. House to expel Condit…

…What's been overlooked by the national news media is that Condit may have had his eyes on running Statewide in Calif. next year – possibly Insurance Commissioner. That's gone. And the national news media has failed to note that Condit and Gov. Gray Davis have been close political allies. In fact, both of Condit's grown children, Chad & Cadee, work for Davis as gubernatorial assistants…

…According to several sources, the political plan (before Chandra Levy) was for Chad to run for Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza's 26th AD next year. That AD was cleared of other Demo candidates. Cardoza is *termed out* and he was set to run for GOP State Sen. Dick Monteith's 12th SD in 2002. Now all these plans are on hold and in addition to Gephardt, Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg and Senate Demo Leader John Burton may have to make adjustments. Sources think it's possible for Chad Condit to run and win the 26th AD – IF he's the only Condit on the November 2002 ballot – and IF he denounces his father's behavior…

…The thinking now among Demos is that Cardoza is perhaps the best candidate to run for the 18th CD if Condit decides not to seek reelection. But two other Demo names have surfaced: State Sen. Jim Costa of Fresno and former State Sen. Patrick Johnston of Stockton. But neither Costa nor Johnston would have as good a shot as Cardoza…

…The DCCC has already made contact with Cardoza. If Cardoza does not run for the 12th SD it makes it more likely that the heavily Demo parts of the 12th SD will be transferred to State Sen. Mike Machado's district – and the ripple effect through No. Calif. might help Burton create a better SD for Assemblywoman Helen Thomson(D), who plans to run for GOP State Sen. Maurice Johannessen's 4th SD next year…

…On the GOP side, Monteith and former Assemblyman George House have both been mentioned as possible candidates for the 18th CD. But only one GOPer has thus far announced that he will run: 44-year-old Modesto Councilman Bill Conrad. He's a West Point grad and businessman. He's been a member of the Stanislaus Co. GOP Central Cmt. and actually ran against Condit in '92. Stay tuned…

***ENERGY & POLITICS:* POLLS, FERC, DAVIS & BUSH.**
Editor's note: Lots of material to catch up on, including some new polling by the *L.A. Times*. Here's our brief update & analysis…

♦ ***No Agreement at FERC Settlement Talks*** – After 15 days of discussions with power generators, the Calif. delegation led by ISO Chair Michael Kahn came away with what they entered: nothing, zip, zero. On July 10th Gov. Gray Davis again blasted the energy generators, saying they did not negotiate in good faith. Davis said the generators best offer to Calif. was that the State (ISO, utilities) still owes them (generators) money. Davis again called upon FERC to see that Calif. is granted a refund of $8.9 billion. "If you think we'll settle for just $1 billion, we'll see you in court," Davis said. One reporter told the governor that his remarks seemed a little antagonistic, to which Davis said he was simply challenging FERC to do their job and support Calif. consumers – instead of supporting the energy industry as they have in the past…

♦ ***Davis Vs. Bush on Energy*** – The new *L.A. Times* poll shows Davis mashing Pres. George W. Bush on the question of "Who is doing a better job of solving the energy crisis." Davis **62%** vs. Bush **17%**, with **21%** don't know. Among those who ID themselves as independents, it's Davis 71% vs. only 13% for Bush. And among GOPers, it's Davis 31% vs. Bush 35%. The poll was taken June 23-26 among 1,216 registered Calif. voters…

♦ ***FERC Gets Flunked*** – In this same *L.A. Times* poll, the Federal Energy Regulatory Comm. gets failing grades from Calif. voters. When asked if they approve/disapprove of the way FERC is handling the electricity situation in Calif., only **16%** approve vs. **62%** who disapprove…

♦ ***3rd Major Generating Plant Opens*** – It's called the *Los Medanos Energy Center* and it's located in Pittsburg, CA. It is a 555-megawatt plant operated by Calpine. This is the 3rd major power plant opened by Gov. Davis this year. On June 27th Davis opened SCE's 320-megawatt plant in Bakersfield and then opened a 540-megawatt plant near Yuba City the following week. And while some GOP operatives hate to admit it, Calif. is slowly but surely building its way out of this energy crisis. And that's the only

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

way this mess will be straightened out…

♦ ***Energy Conservation*** – According to CA Energy Commission, in June 2001 Californians cut their energy use over June 2000 by 12%. During peak hours, electrical use declined 14.1% vs. June 2000. Stay tuned…

CAMPAIGN 2001: **6 RIVALS NOW BATTLING IN S.F. TO REPLACE RETIRING CITY ATTORNEY RENNE.** Editor's note: A major battle is now going on in San Francisco as 6 major challengers jockey for position in an open seat battle to replace retiring S.F. City Atty. Louise Renne, who has held this city hall job for 15 years. Here's our brief update & analysis…

…The 63-year-old Renne's decision not to seek reelection Nov. 6th caught most insiders off guard. Most sources agree that this battle to replace Renne is wide open and will be fun to watch. However, had she run, Renne would have faced at least two of those who are now part of the 6-pack of candidates: land use attorney Steve Williams; and attorney Neil Eisenberg, who ran unsuccessfully against Renne in '93…

…Others now in the race include S.F. Police Comm. Dennis Herrera; attorney Jim Lazarus, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's Calif. director; former S.F. Co. Sup. Annemarie Conroy; and former Redevelopment Agency director Jim Morales…

…Herrera is supported by Renne, Sup. Mark Leno and by Assemblywoman Carole Migden. He's an expert on maritime law and was a former Deputy City Atty., so there's no OJT necessary. He's considered center/left on the political map and should have little trouble raising the maximum in this race, which is $175,000 – $500 per person limit. He's hired Jim Rivaldo as his campaign mgr…

…Lazarus has lots of experience too. Like Herrera, he too was a Deputy City Atty. And in the Feinstein Admin., Lazarus was the deputy mayor. He's got deep pockets and could easily self-fund. Lazarus has hired Jim Gonzalez & Assoc. to handle his campaign…

…Eisenberg is supported by former Mayor Frank Jordan and former Sup. Angela Alioto. And he's got the *Bay Guardian* on his side too. Conroy is perhaps the most interesting of the 6. She's the only GOPer in this race and the only woman. While on the Board of Supes, she was well respected. She's got name ID and a solid GOP base…

…Williams, like Eisenberg, got into the race before Renne decided not to seek reelection. Sources say he planned to run a rather aggressive campaign against Renne. One pro-Williams source described Renne as "the in-house counsel for Willie Brown's machine." Williams is supported by County Supes Tom Ammiano, Leland Lee, Aaron Peskin and Jake McGoldrick – a solid group of pro-neighborhood supes. Marc O'Hara of Winning Directions is in charge of the Williams campaign. Stay tuned…

FULL METAL JACKET**: WORK UNDERWAY TO GET COPS TO BACK TWO HANDGUN LICENSING BILLS.** Editor's note: While **Calpeek** was on vacation, the State Senate Public Safety Cmt., on a 5-1 vote, sent AB 35 to its next legislative hurdle – the Senate Appropriations Cmt. Here's a brief update on this bill to require buyers of new handguns to have a license. The license is not needed to retain ownership of an existing handgun…

…Under current state law, all persons who want to own a new handgun must first acquire a Basic Firearms Safety Certificate. The certificate is almost the same thing as a license. Under AB 35 by Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley(D-SF) and SB 52 by Demo State Sen. Jack Scott of Pasadena – the certificate process would be beefed up to require a written test and potential owners would also have to pass some kind of *safe handling test*. Whether or not the handgun is actually fired during this safety test is still up in the air…

…The key for both bills is winning support or neutralizing the CA State Sheriffs Assn. and PORAC, the State's big association representing rank & file line cops. If these two groups oppose AB35/SB52, it's doubtful Gov. Gray Davis will sign either bill. The CA Police Chiefs are in support of both bills. The cops key problem deals with the physical test: they'd like to know where the safe handling test will be conducted and what will be required. Law enforcement groups would prefer that the safe handling test **not** include actual firing of the weapon. There is a solution…

…Former Assemblyman and now U.S. Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose) introduced a bill (AB 863) which dealt with training in the proper use of handguns, but did **not** require the actual discharge of the gun. AB 863 passed the Assembly, but was never heard in the State Senate. If language from Honda's old bill is added to AB 35/SB 52, part of the problem will be solved…

…As for involvement of the police in the certificate and/or license procedure, they don't want to be involved, but there is a worry about phony IDs. But the Calif. AG may have a solution. The AG may well have the authority to require new handgun owners to supply a thumb print (thumb prints can be required for ID purposes under a 1986 law by former Assemblyman and now U.S. Rep. Gary Condit). And because of a 1996 law by former State Sen. John Lewis(R-

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Orange Co.) the AG's office also has the authority to require uniform equipment to transmit certificate information. About 75% of all gun dealers have machines which can read the magnetic strips on the back of CA driver's licenses. Scott and Shelley want this equipment in all dealerships…

…Assuming the AG can implement the two administrative changes and the safe handling test can be worked out, then both AB 35 and SB 52 have a chance at winning legislative approval and being signed by Gov. Davis. Stay tuned…

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

July 15-17	DLC Nat'l Convention, Indianapolis, IN.
July 20-Aug. 20	CA Legislature's summer recess.
July 26-29	Reform Party USA will hold its 5th annual convention, Renaissance Hotel, Nashville, TN.
Sept. 11	Special election – L.A. City 4th Council Dist.
Sept. 12-15	League of Calif. Cities – annual convention, Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento.
Sept. 28-29	CA Political Attorneys Assn. convention, Monterey.
Oct. 9-12	Regional Council of Rural Counties, annual conference, Tenaya Lodge, Mariposa Co.
Oct. 14	Last day for Gov. Davis to sign bills.
Oct. 29	Calif. candidate declaration of intent for 2002.
Nov. 9-12	IAPC 34th World Conference, Malta.
Nov. 27-Dec. 1	Nat'l League of Cities – Atlanta, GA

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting…

■ ***Erwin New CRP Executive Director*** – The Calif. Republican Party(CRP) has finally selected a new Executive Director. It's Ryan Erwin, who jumps across the Calif. border from his job as NV State GOP Executive Director. Some insider thought Steve Ding from U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo's office had the inside track. Others were sure that Michele Zschau, who was backed by the *New Majority Coalition* and some Lincoln Club types, had the best shot. Was Erwin a compromise???

■ ***The Next Assembly Speaker*** – An open secret for months – it's going to be L.A.'s Herb Wesson, who has been working very hard to win this job. Wesson won the support of current Speaker Bob Hertzberg of Van Nuys many months ago – and that was half the battle. Hertzberg will remain Speaker until January of 2002. Just a sign of what term limits will do: Hertzberg's key district operative, Miriam Jaffe, jumped ship to become new L.A. Councilman Jack Weiss' COS…

■ ***Hahn's L.A. Staff*** – Seven new Deputy Mayors, plus a number of politically well-connected operatives are on new L.A. Mayor Jim Hahn's staff. Key staffers include: Tim McOsker – Deputy Mayor & COS; Matt Middlebrook, deputy mayor for policy & communications; Carmel Sella, deputy mayor for intergovernmental relations; Roberta Yang deputy mayor for public safety; Felipe Fuentes, deputy mayor for the special projects & the San Fernando Valley. In addition, Crista Binder is the new budget director; Sarah Dusseault is the policy director; and Julie Wong is the new communications director (the mayor's spokeswoman)…

■ ***Garfield Wins L.A. Co. COPE Support*** – A mild surprise, as L.A. Comm. College Bd. member Beth Garfield won the L.A. Co. COPE endorsement over former State Senate Leader David Roberti(D). Garfield, Roberti and Tom LaBonge are considered the 3 frontrunners for the late John Ferraro's 4th District seat. Many insiders thought the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor would go for an OPEN endorsement. The election is set for Sept. 11th. Ferraro died April 17th after a long battle with cancer…

CALPEEK's NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook…

● L.A. office of Stoorza Communications has promoted Jane Galbraith to VP and director of media relations. In addition, the L.A. office has hired John Musella and Randy Steinberg as Sr. AEs…

● Long Beach-based campaign/PA firm of Adler Public Affairs has hired Jonathan L. Brown as political director a[illegible] has promoted Jeffrey Henderson to AE…

● Savvy PR pro Sharon Hawkins has been hired as communications director by Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley(D-S.F.)…

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Newly retired teacher** is seeking to begin a second career as Staff Assistant. Lots of political experience, such as Prop. 38, 63, 98, 226 & 227!! Experienced in constituent problem-solving. Perfer Orange County area. Call (714)839-1350.

CALPEEK's Marketplace Network is a listing of employer and employee availabilities for those engaged in campaign consulting, public affairs, public relations, government relations and legislative advocacy. The cost for each listing is **$25** for up to **40 words**. Send ad copy with payment (*no invoicing*) to CALPEEK, Attn: Marketplace Network, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213. For info ☎(310)659-0205...

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED